



Contact:
Public Information Office
Phone: (928) 734-3104
Fax: (928) 734-6665
www.hopi-nsn.gov

June 21, 2011

Hopi Senom Transit System operator defends state title; places 13th nationally

Indianapolis — Hopi Senom Transit System driver Shawn Silas captured first place in the Arizona Rural Road-eo, a statewide competition for transit drivers. The win, marking his second-consecutive Arizona championship, qualified him for the National Community Transportation Association of America (CTAA) Road-eo in Indianapolis, where he placed 13th.

The national competition featured 57 of the best public transportation drivers across the country. This was Silas' second appearance at the national event.

Both the Arizona and the national road-eos consist of a written test, an obstacle course and safety skill demonstration. Contestants are judged on their maneuvering, backing-up and braking abilities.



“The most important part is the verbal portion of the competition, then knowing how to control your vehicle on the course,” said Silas, who is in his third year with the Hopi Senom Transit System. “I think people let their nerves get in the way, but I just relax and have fun with it.”

Judy Polingyumtewa, transit administrator for the Hopi Tribe, praised Silas' accomplishments.

“Two years in a row means a lot for our reservation,” Polingyumtewasaid. “The roads here are really different than those in the city. (Silas) is a dedicated and skilled driver who can improvise on our roads, making him very unique.”

Silas, who has been honored with various luncheons, looks forward to next year's competition.

“You never know, maybe someone will step in next year and beat me. But that's how I play it – it's a great experience.”

The Hopi Senom Transit System operates two fixed routes servicing medical, employment, commercial, human service programs and low income or public housing locations to and from Keams Canyon, Moencopi, Flagstaff, Tuba City and Kykotsmovi. The transit service also provides vanpool type service between Flagstaff and Kykotsmovi.

###